

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (original) A packaging system for shipping and displaying products, the system comprising:

a plurality of vertically stacked trays for holding the products, each tray having an array of openings disposed therein for receiving support posts;

spacer sleeves having hollow interiors, the sleeves located over openings on each tray such that the hollow interiors communicate with the openings; and

support posts inserted inside the spacer sleeves and through the tray openings to lock the trays together.

2. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein the spacer sleeves are affixed to the trays over which they are located.

3. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein a bottommost tray is disposed on a pallet.

4. (original) The system of claim 1 further comprising a top cap covering a topmost tray.

5. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein the trays are formed of corrugated board and the openings are die-cut in the board.

6. (currently amended) The system of claim 1 comprising four ~~support~~ spacer sleeves per tray.
7. (currently amended) The system of claim 1 comprising five ~~support~~ spacer sleeves per tray.
8. (currently amended) The system of claim 1 wherein the ~~support~~ spacer sleeves and the support posts are formed paper tubes.
9. (currently amended) The system of claim 1 wherein the ~~support~~ spacer sleeves are hollow tubes having a substantially triangular cross-sectional profile.
10. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein the spacer sleeves are decorated.
11. (original) The system of claim 1 comprising four trays.
12. (currently amended) The system of claim 1 further comprising an outer wrap wrapped around the trays, spacer sleeves and support posts.